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January 17, 2013

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies  
c/o CH2M HILL  
1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400  
Bellevue, WA 98004

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**RE: Request for Extension of Comment Period**

Dear Madam or Sir:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Center for Justice and The Lands Council. The Center for Justice is a non-profit advocacy organization located in Spokane, Washington. The Center for Justice houses the Spokane Riverkeeper program, which has been active in reviewing issues related to the coal transport issues in the Northwest. The Lands Council is a Spokane non-profit that promotes the transition of the greater Columbia River ecosystem from a region of resource exploitation to one of long-term community and biological stability.

As you are aware, your email system for receiving public comments was not working for a number of days. During that time, we heard from many members of the public who were unable to submit comments and/or were unable to include attachments on the web-based submission page. While we have been informing people that the problem is resolved and the web-based form can now take pdf attachments, time is short to spread the message and ensure that those who were denied an opportunity to comment can do so.

For these reasons, the Center for Justice and The Lands Council request that the comment period for scoping be extended 30 days to allow for additional comments. Given the problems that existed with the system for submitting comments and that this problem was not related to any action of the public, it is reasonable to grant this modest request.

Please inform me as soon as possible as to your decision regarding this request and please keep me on the service list for this action. My address is 35 West Main, Suite 300, Spokane, WA 99201. Email is [ricke@cforjustice.org](mailto:ricke@cforjustice.org).

Sincerely,

CENTER FOR JUSTICE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RE", is written over the typed name of Rick Eichstaedt.

Rick Eichstaedt  
Executive Director